(iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.

(iv) Pilotage

(v) (v} Captive facilities for port based industries.

(c) to (e) The Shipping Industry has already been permitted to raise external commercial borrowing for acquisition of ships. Shipping companies can mobilise funds from their internal resources. The Shipping Industry has raised the following external commercial borrowing during the last 3 years:—

| Year | (US $ in Million) |
|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 36.48 |
| 1999-2000 | 27.16 |
| 2000-2001 | 144.43 |

**Introducing Ferry Service in Coastal Area**

4177. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased
to slate:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce ferry service between Tuticorin-Trivandrum-Rameshwaram-Kanyakumari with a view to promoting quick and cheap transport in the coastal area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHR1PAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is at present no demand for introduction of Ferry services by the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of Kerala. Also, it is a state subject.

**Educational Loan Scheme for Backward Castes in A.P.**

4178. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Educational Loan Scheme for the Backward Castes in Andhra Pradesh through the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC);